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of illegitimate births for 1920 having been 24.0, which, however, is somewhat less than the average for 1911–19, given as 28.0. Equally disturbing is the high number of divorces, which is given as 171 for the year 1920, which compares with an average of 114 for the period 1911–19.

The death rate during 1920 was 13.0 per 1,000, which contrasts with a death rate of 29.8 during 1867–70 and 16.7 during 1911–15. Contagious diseases have diminished very materially during recent years, including the war period, the rate having declined from 4.4 per 1,000 in 1867–70 to 0.7 in 1901–10, 0.4 during 1911–15, 0.3 during 1916–19, and only 0.2 during 1920.

There was an astonishing decline in the mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis, the lowest figure on record having been reached during 1920, when the rate was only 9.7 per 10,000, in contrast to a rate of 49.4 during 1867–70. During the early war period the rate was 16.2, and during the later period, 23.8 per 10,000 of population.

In contrast, there was a very slight increase in the mortality from cancer in 1920 as compared with 1919, the rate for the later year being lower than during any previous year except 1914 and 1916.

The actual deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis decreased from 267 during 1919 to 152 during 1920. Among other interesting facts disclosed by the table of causes in detail reference may be made to the mortality from suicide, which during 1920 decreased to 39 as against 45 in 1919; and there were only two deaths from homicide during 1920 in a population, as previously stated, of 156,924. During the previous year the number of deaths from homicide was 4. There was only one death from typhoid fever, five from smallpox, two from scarlet fever, and ten from whooping cough.

These observations apply exclusively to the city of Brussels and have no reference to the suburbs, the population of which increases the number of inhabitants of Greater Brussels to 811,690. For this area the death rate during 1920 was 13.3, while the birth rate was 17.4, or about the same as for the city of Brussels in the more restricted sense of the term. The report is illustrated by a number of admirable diagrams and maps.

F. L. Hoffman

*The Mathematical Theory of Probabilities and Its Application to Frequency Curves and Statistical Methods*, by Arne Fisher. *Volume I. Mathematical Probabilities, Frequency Curves, Homograde and Heterograde Statistics.* 2d. ed., greatly enlarged. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922. xxix, 289 pp.

The enlargement of the second edition of this volume consists in adding to the 171 pages of the old edition, which now appears as Part I, two new sections: Part II, pp. 169–214, on Frequency Curves and Heterograde Statistics, and Part III, pp. 215–89, on Practical Applications of the Theory. It is therefore practicable to let the earlier review[1] stand as written and turn attention to the additions.

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[1] This Journal, Vol. VI, Dec. 1916, pp. 468–9.

In Part II there are two chapters: XIII, The Theory of Errors and Frequency Curves and Its Application to Statistical Series. General Remarks, p. 169; XIV, The Mathematical Theory of Frequency Curves, p. 188. In Part III are four chapters: XV, The Numerical Determination of the Parameters, p. 215; XVI, Logarithmically Transformed Frequency Functions, p. 235; XVII, Frequency Curves and their Relation to the Bernoullian Series, p. 261; XVIII, Poisson-Charlier Frequency Curves for Integral Variates, p. 271. These titles indicate in a fairly clear manner the contents of those new sections of the volume which follow and depend upon the general theory of probabilities. Parts II and III are not only more advanced, they are decidedly harder reading than Part I. The reader who is unfamiliar with mathematics will find little cheer. A well-known quotation comes to mind: Je me rends parfaitement compte du désagréable effet que produit sur la majorité de l'humanité, tout ce qui se rapporte, même au plus faible dégré, à des calculs on raisonnements mathématiques. Still, there is a point beyond which one cannot go in statistics unless he is able to overcome his dislike for mathematical analysis or at least for mathematical reasoning.

In this book Mr. Fisher shows that he belongs to the school of Laplace, Poisson, Gram, Charlier—the French-Scandinavian school rather than the German or the English. This is fortunate, for it brings into our scientific literature a presentation of ideas hitherto almost if not quite lacking in it. We are promised by Mr. Fisher a continuing volume which will be eagerly awaited, particularly as it will contain not only additional statistical theory and application but mathematical tables advantageous to those who would apply the theory already incorporated in the new Volume I.

EDWIN BIDWELL WILSON

Harvard School of Public Health